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GENERAL NOTES

The Semi-centenary of the Argentine National Observatory:

On October 24, 1921, fifty years had passed since the inauguration of the National Observatory under the direction of Dr. B. A. Gould. Formal celebration of the event has been postponed until the completion of the improvements now in hand and as much as possible of the extensive programs of work begun in that period.

C. D. PERRINE.

A New Administration Building for the Argentine National Observatory:—The budget for the current year contains funds for beginning the construction of a new administration building to connect the two concrete and steel domes erected some ten years ago. The new building will replace the original one, will be of reinforced concrete and steel, fireproof, and will provide, in addition to an extensive basement for laboratory uses, offices, library and apparatus rooms and three new steel domes. These domes will house respectively the new 75 cm. reflector, the 5-inch Clark Refractor used for the *Durchmusterung* work, and the photographic portrait lens telescopes (several). The original meridian circle which is so inseparably connected with the founding and early history of the observatory will occupy an honored place, on its original piers, in the main hall of the new building. A platform directly above it on the roof gallery will provide engineers with the fundamental point which has served them so many years for their surveying operations.

The detailed plans have been worked out by the Department of Public Works of the Nation, under whose supervision the work will be done, and call for an expenditure of approximately \$120,000 gold. It is hoped to complete the building in 1922.

C. D. PERRINE.

Meeting of the International Astronomical Union:—The second meeting of the International Astronomical Union will be held this year. The place of meeting is Rome, Italy, and the date originally set was April 20. A cablegram just received from Professor Fowler, General Secretary, states that this date has been changed to May 2.

Bibliography of Relativity:—Mr. Frederick E. Brasch, a member of our Society for many years, who is now connected with the newly opened James Jerome Hill Reference Library at St. Paul, Minn., is engaged upon the compilation of a complete bibliography of the literature, in all languages, dealing with the theory of relativity. The new library is to be dedicated to the use of research workers and advanced students in every line of thought, and the effort will be made to have it contain all books needed by such students, particular attention being given to securing works not easily accessible elsewhere in this country.

The Bright Object Seen Near the Sun on August 7, 1921:—A letter received from Professor Sigeru Kanda, of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory, states that a bright cometary object was seen by Mr. K. Kanda at Simo-Sibuya, near Tokyo, on the evening of August 9, 1921, 6^h35^m to 6^h55^m, Central Standard Time of Japan (precedes Gr. M. T. by 9 hours).

The object was 2° in breadth, 19° in length, and was inclined about 20° to the right (north) from the vertical. Professor Kanda deduces the position of the object as covering the region from R. A. 9^h48^m; Decl. + 14° to R. A. 10^h42^m; Decl. + 30°. He considers the altitude fairly accurate, the azimuth less so, and thinks the object may have been the tail of the bright comet-like body observed at Mount Hamilton on August 7, and described in the October number of these PUBLICATIONS. It could not be found on the following evening.

The Arcetri Observatory, Florence, Italy:—A card recently received states that the R. Osservatorio Astronomico di Arcetri, Firenze, will hereafter devote its activities chiefly to astrophysical research and will be known as the R. Osservatorio Astrofisico. Correspondents are requested to note this change of name. Professor Antonio Abetti, for many years director of the observatory, reached the age limit in June 1921, and has retired from active service. His son, Dr. Giorgio Abetti, has been appointed acting director.

On June 22, 1921, Father John G. Hagen, S. J., Director of the Vatican Observatory, was created "Honorary Doctor of Philosophy" by the University of Bonn. The occasion for the conferring of this honor was the completion of Father Hagen's work, "Die Veränderlichen Sterne," in which full credit is given to the Bonn celebrities, Argelander and Schönfeld. Father Hagen's Alma Mater honored itself by honoring its former student of fifty years ago.

Encke's Comet; A Correction:—In the note on page 329 of the December number of these PUBLICATIONS, giving Mr. Frank E. Seagrave's ephemeris for Encke's Comet for the period April 15 to June 2, 1922, it is said that "the comet makes its nearest approach to the Earth at this return early in August." This is a mistake, made by the editor. The comet passed perihelion in July, 1921, and is not due to return to perihelion again until November, 1924. It is now receding from the Sun and Mr. Seagrave's ephemeris was computed at the request of certain astronomers who wish to observe the comet when it is at a great distance from the Earth.